## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[1]] 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a bendable elbow.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim 2, wherein the bendable elbow includes interlocking teeth, arranged to interlock when the lockable pivot is locked.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[1]] 63, wherein the ~~single~~ pivot ball is [[a]] knurled [[ball]], and wherein pincers secure the arms to the ball~~the securing component includes a pair of pincers~~.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[5]] 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a twist to lock mechanism.

Claims 7-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[1]] 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a solenoid.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[1]] 63, wherein the force applying unit includes a threaded plunger~~, threadedly connected with the body~~.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim [[1]] 62, further comprising [[:]] at least one length adjusting unit attached to and interspersed with the one or more force applying units and the one or more coupling units, the length adjusting unit arranged to adjustably change length to adjust a length of the chain.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The ~~clamping~~ system of Claim 18, wherein the length adjusting unit includes a turnbuckle.

Claims 21-61 (Cancelled)

62. (New) A system for clamping a top work piece to an underlying work piece, the system comprising:

a crib for supporting the underlying work piece; and

a chain of interspersed coupling units and force applying units, the chain stretching across an upper surface of the top work piece, opposite ends of the chain secured to the crib, the coupling units allowing the force-applying units to conform to the upper surface of the top work piece, the force-applying units for pressing the top work piece against the underlying work piece.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein at least one of the coupling units includes a single pivot ball, and a first arm and a second arm, one end of each arm lockably gripping the single pivot ball.

64. (New) A system for clamping aircraft skin having a complex surface shape to an aircraft frame, the apparatus comprising:

a crib configured to support the aircraft frame; and

a chain of interspersed coupling units and force applying units, the chain stretching across the surface of the skin, opposite ends of the chain secured to the crib, the coupling units allowing the force-applying units to conform to the complex shape of the skin, the force-applying units for pressing the skin against the frame.